

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT
TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING
OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR
IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSIENT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR FIFTY LINES,
EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PER-
MANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

We had not supposed a casual reference
to a ruler for more than three centuries
dead likely to kindle the flames of religious
controversy. Our surprise at the note of
X. L. P., published in last week's issue, in
which he cites authorities to show that
Charles V. was too poor a Catholic at that
particular time to have persecuted the
Protestants because they were heretics is
therefore genuine.

We refer to the matter again, not to
excite his sensitiveness still further, but
merely to demonstrate that "this portion of
our article does not show that temperance
got the best of us when quelling the 'Protestant
liquid,' but that we have quenched our
thirst at a different fountain. Mother in
"The Rise of the Dutch Republic," volume
first, page 77, quotes from the edict of
Charles, 1521, as follows: "As it appears
that the aforesaid Martin [Luther] is not a
man, but a devil under the form of a man,
and clothed in the dress of a priest, the better
to bring the human race to hell and
damnation, therefore all his disciples and
converts are to be punished with death and
forfeiture of all their goods." Again he
says, p. 80: "In 1535 an imperial edict
was issued at Brussels, condemning all her-
etics to death; repentant males to be ex-
ecuted with the sword, repentant females to
be buried alive, the obstinate of both sexes
to be burned." This and similar edicts were
the law of the land for twenty years and
rigidly enforced." Other quotations might
be given, but we think that our correspond-
ent will at least grant that "when doctors
disagree the disciples are free."

Township Appropriations.

The appropriations recommended by the
Township Committee at their last meeting
are but slightly in advance of those pre-
sented in past years. In the items of poor,
contingencies, and crosswalks no change is
made. For construction of sidewalks upon
the plan adopted last year, the township
sharing the cost with property-owners, the
same amount is recommended. The stim-
ulus given to the laying of durable pave-
ments by this municipal help is not to be
despised. During the year about one-half
mile of good flag sidewalk, four feet wide,
has been laid, to the permanent improve-
ment of the village. Some of the walks
upon main avenues are still in a wretched
condition, for which, however, the care-
lessness of property-owners is entirely respon-
sible. Those who have accepted the propo-
sitions of the committee have shown them-
selves well pleased with the result. Not a
dollar has been lost by bad debts. The
whole work has been done upon a cash
basis.

The recommendation for public grounds
is made large enough to cover care of lawn,
and repairs of walks.

Although the expenditures for water and
gas are fixed by contract, it has been
thought wise to place the amounts upon the
tax estimates for the approval of the voters.
The amount for water is that yearly de-
manded by the contract entered into one
year ago, and to remain in force for ten
years.

The sum set aside for gas for a number
of years has been \$3,800. This has been
sufficient to meet the cost of lighting two
hundred and thirty-six lamps. The addi-
tion of twenty-six posts would have mate-
rially increased this amount had it not been
accompanied with a substantial reduction in
the price of gas. This has enabled the
Committee to pay the cost of posts and the
increased amount of gas used out of last
year's assessment. They now add \$300 to
cover the cost of eleven posts to be placed
upon Ridgewood avenue, calculating that
with the increase of lamps, \$3,800 will still
meet the cost of gas, care of lamps and
other expenses.

One thousand dollars is designated for
fire purposes, covering the cost of room-rent
for fire and hose company, fuel and oil,
and about eight hundred feet of
new hose. The good work done by the
companies the past year and the interest
taken in their success will no doubt com-

ment this item to the favorable considera-
tion of the voters.

The appropriation for roads has been
divided into three parts, to correspond with
the objects for which it is to be expended.
The experiment of making stone roads has
been sufficiently successful to encourage its
continuance upon the main street. It must
not, however, interfere with the care of the
side streets, upon which the Committee
recommend that gravel be used, and that a
small amount be raised for repairs.

The report to be presented at the annual
meeting, on Monday next, will show an im-
proved condition of our finances. Out of
back taxes the sum of \$2,900 has been paid
for their new school-house. There is now
but a small amount of indebtedness still
unpaid, which a continuance of our present
prosperity would soon wipe from the books.
Notwithstanding the hard times and com-
plaints against the gas and water taxes, a
smaller proportion of uncollected taxes re-
mains than before.

A settlement of the present tax dis-
putes will no doubt be reached at an early
day.

Notes and Observations.

During this last week I had occasion to
do considerable walking about the town of
Bloomfield by night. I reached home hav-
ing lost neither life nor limb, but a few
sidewalks were free from snow and ice, but
the majority were in a miserable condition.
A walk which should have been a healthful
pleasure, was by the inexpressible negligence
of property-owners, rendered a fatiguing and
disagreeable one to say dangerous labor. As
I went slipping and sliding along I re-
cognized the residences of many whom I
knew to be members in good and regular
standing in our various churches. I won-
dered how these, who professed "brotherly
love," as one of the corner-stones of their
life could reconcile their principles and
their conduct. Had a prayer-meeting been
my destination, and if, while there, one of
these brethren had said anything concerning
"good will towards men" and the duty of
kindly consideration of the comfort and
welfare of our fellow creatures, I should
have felt strongly tempted to arise and
remark that in my humble opinion he might
have served his fellow creatures much more
effectually, and exhibited his principles
much more convincingly if he had staid at
home and shoveled off his sidewalk.

In fact, I was so convinced by the force
of my own argument, that I felt it my duty
to lay it before the church members of
Bloomfield, feeling sure that they never had
looked at the matter from a religious stand-
point. Rest assured, that if we practiced
brotherly love a little more and preached it
a little less, or rather, if we brought the
standard of practice a little nearer the
preaching level, we should make a better
impression on the non-believing portion of
the community. For instance, if after the
next snow the way-faring man and woman
found that out of consideration for their
comfort every church member in the town
had cleaned his sidewalk, and moreover, if
it appeared he had not been afraid lest he
might run six inches beyond his own line,
these wayfaring people would observe, that
a religion capable of producing such visible
and substantial fruit must be good for some-
thing. Such a phenomenon would arrest
the attention of the most careless sinner in
the town. No sermon would produce any-
thing like the effect. I can imagine the
case-hardened scolder, as he passes along
astonished, muttering to himself that Chris-
tianity might not be so much of a humbug
as he thought.

On the other hand what shall we say in
defense of the Christianity of one, who to
save twenty five cents in money or a few
minutes labor, will carelessly or deliberately
cause women and children to wade through
snow and slush and arrive at their destina-
tion with feet soaking wet and clothing
damp. How many cases of severe sickness,
not unfrequently ending in death, can be
attributed to this single cause? This is bad
enough, but when in addition we consider
that at a time dangerous to the old and the
infirm, exhausting to the weary, and exas-
perating and disagreeable to all, it seems
as though we had passed the boundary of
the blameworthy and entered the criminal.
Would any good Christian consider him-
self justified in compelling any hard-worked
man or woman to chop wood for him with-
out pay, thus robbing them of that strength
which God has given them for themselves
and those dependent on them? Very
well then—compelling them to exhaust
their strength on an icy walk is no very
far removed from criminal action.

Now good friends what are you going to
do about it? Nothing, I suppose, except
to say that it was a crazy freak of mine to
make such a common, everyday matter a
religious duty. Oh, very well, but com-
mon and everyday matters compose nine
hundred and ninety nine one thousandths
of our lives and if religion is to be ruled
out to that extent, what is it good for?
Under those circumstances I think it had
better be dispensed with at once by all
except the rich who can afford expensive
luxuries. Besides I seem to recollect that
such an everyday matter as the giving a cup

of water was of greater value than long
prayers. But a cup of water is serviceable
to but one; cleaning one's sidewalk is
more valuable than going to meeting. *Quod
erat demonstrandum.*

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Carefully corrected up to date.

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Leave Montclair—6:03, 7:15, 7:55, 8:25*, 9:15,
10:35, 11:35 a.m. 12:50, 1:40, 3:30, 4:45, 5:25, 6:10,
6:55, 8:15, 8:40, 11:05 p.m. 12:20 a.m.

Leave Glen Ridge—6:06, 7:17, 7:57, 8:30, 9:17,
10:37, 11:37 a.m. 12:53, 1:43, 3:32, 4:47, 5:27, 6:13,
7:00, 8:18, 9:43, 11:08 p.m. 12:20 a.m.

Leave Bloomfield—6:08, 7:19, 7:59, 8:32*, 9:19,
10:39, 11:39 a.m. 12:56, 1:45, 3:35, 4:49, 5:29, 6:13,
7:05, 8:20, 9:45, 11:10 p.m. 12:25 a.m.

Arrive Newark—6:23, 7:30, 8:10, 9:30, 10:50,
11:30 a.m. 1:08, 1:58, 3:47, 5:04, 5:40, 6:38, 7:26,
8:37, 10:08, 11:22 p.m. 12:34 a.m.

Arrive New York—6:30, 8:00, 8:40, 9:1